GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3093
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
CRISIS IN COIR INDUSTRY
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Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a): whether the Government is aware that coir industry in the country especially in Kerala is facing a crisis due to fall in prices and stiff competition;

(b): if so, the details of the growth/loss in the coir industry in Kerala during each of the last three years;

(c): the action taken/proposed to be taken for protection of coir workers;

(d): whether the Union Government is providing any relief to the coir workers; and

(e): if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES & AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a): While there is no crisis, the coir industry in Kerala has experienced some shortages of raw material for manufacturing coir products as a consequence of drought and mite disease that affected the production of coconuts over the past two years. Coir products also face competition from substitute products from natural and synthetic materials.

(b): The details of production of coir fibre in Kerala during the last three years are as under:

Year	Production of coir fibre (metric tones)
2001-02	1,64,000
2002-03	1,66,500
2003-04	1,30,000

(c)to(e): The shortage of raw material in Kerala in the last two years was met by sourcing from the neighbouring coir producing States. At the request of the Government of Kerala, the Government of India has also permitted duty free import of coir fibre from the neighbouring countries for one year starting September 2004. The fibre shortage due to drought and mite attack has not, however, affected employment in the coir sector which has been registering growth over the past three years.